

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 081356
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SIG-01 /024 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:GHAMILTON:GJB
APPROVED BY AF/C:TRBUCHANAN
-----120347Z 031145 /66

O P 120331Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 081356

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AO, CG

SUBJECT: BORDER ATTACK ON ZAIRE - U.S. PRESS TREATMENT
APRIL 11
1. FOLLOWING IS BRIEF ROUNDUP OF U.S. PRESS TREATMENT OF
ZAIRE.

2. THE WASHINGTON POST (4/9)

--A ROBIN WRIGHT ARTICLE FROM KIN LA BELLE CLAIMED THAT
A SENIOR SOUTH AFRICAN SECURITY OFFICER HAD VISITED
KINSHASA AND OFFERED AID AND ARMS. REPORTEDLY THE
ZAIRIANS AGREED.

3. THE WASHINGTON POST (4/10)

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 081356

--JOHN STOCKWELL RESIGNATION LETTER FROM THE C.I.A. TALKED
ABOUT THE INVASION BEING A RETALIATION FOR ZAIRIAN BACKING
OF THE FNLA DURING THE ANGOLAN CIVIL WAR AND AGENCY
RECRUITMENT OF MERCENARIES.

4. ON APRIL 11 MOST MAJOR PAPERS CARRIED FIRST-PAGE
ARTICLES ON THE FRENCH DECISION TO PROVIDE LOGISTICAL AIR

SUPPORT FOR ZAIRE. CBS RADIO CARRIED THE FOLLOWING STORY:

NEIL STRAWSER: MOROCCO HAS SENT TROOPS, FRANCE IS SENDING PLANES TO SUPPLY THEM. EGYPT AND THE SUDAN ARE TALKING ABOUT AID. BUT WHAT OF THE UNITED STATES? ZAIRE'S PRESIDENT MOBUTU HAS TOLD NEWSWEEK THAT HE IS BITTERLY DISAPPOINTED BECAUSE THE U.S. HAS NOT SENT ARMS AND AMMUNITION TO HELP FIGHT OFF INVADERS OF THE FORMER KATANGA PROVINCE.

BUT SENATOR DICK CLARK, CHAIRMAN OF THE AFRICAN AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE, TELLS CBS NEWS U.S. POLICY SHOULD BE HANDS OFF.

CLARK: I THINK IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR US TO BECOME MORE DEEPLY INVOLVED IN A CIVIL WAR IN ZAIRE. AFTER ALL, THESE KATANGANS ARE THEMSELVES ZAIRIANS, AND AS FAR AS WE KNOW AT THIS POINT, IT'S REALLY MUCH MORE OF A CIVIL WAR THAN FOREIGN INVASION INVOLVING COMMUNIST OR SOVIET-SOURCE CUBANS.

STRAWSER: FRANCE, IN ITS ACTION, IS DRAWING ONE DISTINCTION. ITS PLANES, ACCORDING TO OFFICIALS WILL CARRY SUPPLIES FOR THE MOROCCANS, BUT NOT THE TROOPS THEMSELVES. PETER KALISCHER HAS MORE FROM PARIS.

KALISCHER: ELEVEN FRENCH MILITARY TRANSPORT PLANES HAVE BEGUN SHUTTling SUPPLIES FROM MOROCCO TO ZAIRE IN AN ACTION THAT PUTS FRANCE SOLIDLY BEHIND THE REGIME OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 081356

ZAIRE'S PRESIDENT MOBUTU AGAINST ALLEGED INVADERS FROM NEIGHBORING ANGOLA. THAT'S THE WORD TODAY ON NATIONAL FRENCH RADIO AND TELEVISION. TEN PLANES ARE FRENCH BUILT (GARBLED) AND ONE IS A DC-8. A COMMUNIQUE FROM THE OFFICE OF FRENCH PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING DESCRIBES ZAIRE AS A VICTIM OF ARMED SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY ON ITS TERRITORY AND SAID THE SUBVERSION CAME FROM ABROAD. THE HEAD OF THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY REPRESENTATIVES IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY HAS PROTESTED THE AIRLIFT HELP, WHICH THE GOVERNMENT SAID WAS PROVIDED AT THE REQUEST OF BOTH ZAIRE AND MOROCCO.

5. NEWSWEEK MAGAZINE APPEARING APRIL 11 CARRIES INTERVIEW BETWEEN PRESIDENT MOBUTU AND ARNAUD DE BORCHGRAVE. PORTIONS APPEAR BELOW:

(A) Q: WHAT HAVE THE AMERICANS TOLD YOU? HAVE YOU RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER?

A: SECRETARY (OF STATE CYRUS)VANCE SENT ME A MESSAGE...
THAT THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF ABANDONING ME AND SO
FORTH. BUT THIS, ALAS, HAS NOT BEEN TRANSLATED INTO
ANYTHING CONCRETE (APART FROM) TWO PLANELOADS OF RATIONS,
MEDICINE, PARACHUTES, SOCKS AND UNDERWEAR AND OTHER NON-
LETHAL SUPPLIES....I MUST CONFESS WE ARE BITTERLY
DISAPPOINTED BY AMERICA'S ATTITUDE. NETO IS A PAWN OF THE
CUBANS AND RUSSIANS BUT YOU WON'T FACE UP TO THE THREAT.
IT IS YOUR WEAKNESS VERSUS THEIR WILL POWER AND STRENGTH.

IF YOU HAVE DECIDED TO SURRENDER PIECEMEAL TO THE SOVIET-
CUBAN GRAND DESIGN IN AFRICA, I THINK YOU OWE IT TO US
AND TO YOUR OTHER FRIENDS TO HAVE THE FRANKNESS TO ADMIT
IT. ANDREW YOUNG (THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED
NATIONS) SAYS IT DOES NOT MATTER IF AFRICAN STATES GO
MARXIST BECAUSE THEY WANT TO GO ON TRADING WITH AMERICA.
IS THAT THE POSITION OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION? IF IT
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 STATE 081356

IS, WE SHOULD BE TOLD ABOUT IT AND WE WILL THEN BE IN A
POSITION TO ARRANGE FOR OUR OWN SURRENDER ON BETTER
TERMS TODAY THAN TOMORROW. THE OAU (ORGANIZATION
OF AFRICAN UNITY) HAS BACKED OUR POSITION. YET ANGOLA,
CUBA AND RUSSIA HAVE THE GALL TO WARN YOU NOT TO
INTERFERE, AND YOU SEEM TO BE ACQUIESCING.

(B) IN RESPONDING TO A QUESTION ABOUT WHO HAD PROVIDED
HELP, MOBUTU RESPONDED, "THE AMERICANS, UNFORTUNATELY,
WERE THE FIRST TO RUN WHEN THEY PULLED OUT THEIR CON-
STRUCTION WORKERS WITHOUT EVEN CONSULTING THE BELGIANS
AND FRENCH. AT LEAST PARIS AND BRUSSELS SEEM TO UNDER-
STAND WHAT'S AT STAKE FOR THE WESTERN WORLD.

(C) Q: SECRETARY VANCE SAID RECENTLY THAT PROGRESS
TOWARD A POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THE INVASION OF ZAIRE
IS ENCOURAGING AND IT MAY BE UNNECESSARY TO CONSIDER
A REQUEST FROM ZAIRE FOR U.S. AMMUNITION. WHAT DID HE
MEAN?

A. I GUESS HE DIDN'T WANT TO ROCK THAT BOAT BEFORE HIS
TRIP TO MOSCOW. IT WAS ONE MORE PRETEXT NOT TO
ACCELERATE DELIVERY OF THE DOLLARS 30 MILLION IN
MILITARY AID APPROVED BY YOUR CONGRESS.END TEXT.
VANCE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS SUMMARIES, INVASIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE081356
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GHAMILTON:GJB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770125-1172
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770465/aaaaceom.tel
Line Count: 164
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9c3bbda6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2831037
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BORDER ATTACK ON ZAIRE - U.S. PRESS TREATMENT APRIL 11
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, AO, CG, US
To: KINSHASA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9c3bbda6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009